

REPORT

FROM THE

COMMITTEE OF SECRECY

OF THE

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Ireland*

HOUSE OF LORDS

OF

IRELAND,

APPOINTED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE

MATTERS OF THE SEALED-UP

TREASONABLE PAPERS

RECEIVED FROM THE

COMMONS

The 4th of May, 1797.

London:

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20th May, 1797. 80

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REPORT

COMMITTEE OF SELECT

OF THE

HOUSE OF LORDS

IRELAND

IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

REPORT

THE PAPERS

OF THE

COMMONS

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS



44.

3. 29.

PRINTED BY STOCKDALE, BROADWAY.

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1807.

[Price 6d. for three Copies.]

R E P O R T

FROM THE

COMMITTEE OF SECRECY.

Die Veneris, 12^o Maii, 1797^o.

The Lord Chancellor from the Lords Committees appointed to examine the Matters of the sealed-up Papers received from the Commons the fourth instant, made the following Report, viz.

MY LORDS,

THE Lords Committees appointed to examine the matters of the sealed-up papers received from the House of Commons the fourth instant, and to report the same as they should appear to them to the House, having carefully examined the papers referred to them, and compared the said papers with the Report made by the Secret Committee of the House of Commons, and having received and investigated such further evidence as they thought in prudence they were called upon to examine, have come to an unanimous resolution

immediately to report to your Lordships, that they are fully satisfied and convinced from the evidence laid before them, that a traitorous and alarming conspiracy has been formed, and that sundry acts have been done in pursuance thereof, by certain affiliated societies and persons in different parts of this kingdom, calling themselves United Irishmen, for the subversion of the established laws and constitution, and the introduction of a system of anarchy, plunder, and confusion, similar to that which has fatally prevailed in France.

Your Committee think it necessary further to report to your Lordships, that it has appeared distinctly to them that such a system was the first and fundamental object of these societies, at their original institution in the summer of the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, and that the attainment of what are called Parliamentary Reform and Catholick Emancipation, were and continue to be held out by them merely as a pretence for their associations, and with a view to seduce persons, who were not apprized of their traitorous designs, to unite with them.

It has appeared to your Committee, that these associations have gradually multiplied, and are now extended in a very alarming degree; that their members are bound to each other by oaths of secrecy, and appear to be firmly united in a general compact to subvert the monarchy, and to establish a republican government in Ireland—To effect this object, it has appeared clearly to your Committee, that measures have been adopted by them, and are still continued, for procuring arms and ammunition to be distributed amongst the accomplices in this conspiracy, for effectuating by open force their purposes; and, particularly, that pikes in very considerable numbers have been

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procured by them.—And it has appeared clearly, that they look to force only, for that they have unequivocally avowed their hostility to the Parliament, and to all members of whom it is composed, without distinction or exception.—It has further appeared to your Committee, that the leaders and directors of these associations are now, and have been for some time past, anxiously engaged in uniting with them a class of men who had formerly disturbed the peace of this country, by acts of outrage, robbery, and murder, under the appellation of Defenders, and your Committee have reason to apprehend that in a certain degree they have succeeded.

Your Committee having carefully examined the Report made by the Secret Committee of the House of Commons which your Lordships have referred to them, find that it is fully supported by the evidence which has been investigated by your Committee, and therefore they have foreborn to enter into the detail contained in the said Report, which otherwise they should have thought it necessary to lay before your Lordships, but they beg leave to refer your Lordships to the said Report, which will be found to contain facts of a most interesting and important nature, and deserving your Lordships most serious consideration ; and in addition to the facts contained in the said Report, your Committee think it necessary to state to your Lordships, that it has appeared distinctly and unequivocally to them, that a traitorous correspondence and communication has been carried on between the leaders and directors of the societies of United Irishmen and the Executive Directory of the French republic ; the period at which this correspondence was proved to have taken place, has appeared to your Committee, to
have

have been between the month of June, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, and the month of January one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six; and the means by which it was carried on, in that instance, have been fully proved before your Committee; and it has also appeared to your Committee, that in the event of success on the part of these conspirators, it has been decided, that all persons who, from their principles or situations, may be deemed inimical to the conspiracy, shall be massacred; the first proscribed list, it has appeared to your Committee, has been calculated by one of their leaders at thirty thousand persons.

Under circumstances so novel and alarming, your Committee submit to your Lordships the expediency of their being empowered to make further inquiries, and to receive such communications as may be made to them by order of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, or by the Committee of Secrecy appointed by the House of Commons, whose zeal and assiduity, in concert with your Lordships, cannot fail, we trust, in detecting this scene of iniquity, and thereby averting the calamities in which the further progress of such a conspiracy must necessarily involve this happy and prosperous nation.



In the Original Report, printed by the House of Commons of Ireland, immediately preceding the two last paragraphs in page 39, and in that printed for J. Stockdale, immediately preceding the two last paragraphs in page 40, the following words were omitted in some of the copies, in the hurry of issuing it from the press.

“ Upon the whole, dangerous and alarming as
“ this conspiracy appears to be, your Committee
“ is induced to believe the degrees of crimina-
“ lity in the individuals who compose it are very
“ different, as it appears to have been a princi-
“ ple with the authors of this institution to cloak
“ their real design under false colours.”

Treasonable Correspondence.

This Day is Published,

(Price 1s. 6d.)

R E P O R T

FROM THE

COMMITTEE OF SECRECY

APPOINTED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION

THE TREASONABLE PAPERS

PRESENTED TO THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF IRELAND,

ON THE TWENTY-NINTH OF APRIL LAST,

Reported May 10, 1797,

BY THE

Right Hon. Mr. SECRETARY PELHAM.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A CHARGE TO THE GRAND JURY

OF THE

COUNTY OF DUBLIN,

By ROBERT DAY, Esq.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR JOHN STOCKDALE, PICCADILLY,

MAY 17 1797



